

*Washington, DC* - U.S. Reps. John Hall (D-Dover) today shepherded through Congress bipartisan legislation honoring academic achievement at the United States Military Academy at West Point and congratulating West Point on being named by Forbes Magazine as America's Best College for 2009. The legislation, which has earned the cosponsorship of 51 of Rep. Hall's colleagues, passed today with unanimous support.

The legislation, House Resolution 747, congratulates the Academy and supports its mission to "To educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army." The congressional resolution will be printed for display at the Military Academy so that current and prospective cadets will be able to view the statement of support.

Congressman Hall, whose Congressional District includes West Point, said, "The U.S. Military Academy at West Point is a national treasure and a jewel of the Hudson Valley, forging today's heroes and tomorrow's leaders. I am so proud to represent West Point in Congress and am glad it is getting the nationwide recognition it so rightly deserves as a college of excellence."

"I'm very pleased that the U.S. House of Representatives today formally recognized the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for being named 'America's Best College of 2009' Forbes magazine," Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), an original cosponsor of the legislation said. "This fine institution has developed and graduated some of our nation's finest leaders who have bravely and honorably served their country. This national recognition is well-deserved and I hope will encourage more young men and women to apply for admission to this prestigious academy."

Congressman Todd Tiahrt (R-KS) also an original cosponsor of the legislation said, "I am very pleased the House passed this resolution today honoring West Point for its national recognition by Forbes magazine as America's Best College for 2009. West Point is an outstanding military and academic institution that excels in offering a well-rounded educational experience and has produced some of our nation's finest leaders."

Rep. Jim Marshall (D-GA), also an original cosponsor of the bill said, "I very much appreciate Congressman Hall's initiative to recognize and commend West Point for its selection as Best

College in America. The attention will help with recruiting. Go Army! Beat Navy!"

In addition to the Forbes magazine ranking as America's Best College, West Point also received commendation from U.S. News & World Report who named West Point as the Best Public Liberal Arts College in the United States and has consistently rated West Point's undergraduate engineering program as among the best in the country. Video of Rep. Hall speaking in support of the House bill can be seen here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNLbH1U-FxM>